



December 18, 2022

# Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish of the PNCC

20 St. Stephens Church Lane, Reading PA 19607

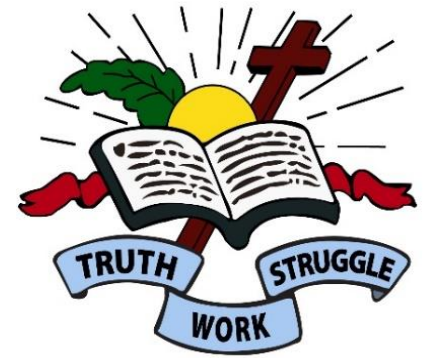
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## The Fourth Sunday of Advent

### A Sabbath Thought

Like Joseph, our role in the drama of Christmas, the drama of redemption for everyone, demands our openness to unusual options. What about angels, what about visions and dreams?

### About Today's Bible Readings

#### ISAIAH 7:10-14

Ahaz says he does not want to trouble the Lord with his business, but he is lying. He hopes God will let him handle things in his own way. But God intervenes anyway.

#### Responsorial Psalm: 24: et the 1-2, 3- 4, 5-6

**R. Let the Lord enter; he is  
king of glory.**

#### ROMANS 1:1-7

Paul writes to fellow Christians he has not met and urges them to be obedient ("listen") to the call that they have received to "spread the Name".

#### MATTHEW 1:18-24

Joseph, not often at center stage in the Christmas story, shares his fears with an angel in a dream. He finds his options enlarged and receives an invitation to name the future of salvation.

### ENTRANCE RITE – John 11:27; Psalm 90:2

*V. Yes, Lord. I have come to believe that You are the Messiah, the Son of God, the One Who is coming into the world.*

**R. Before the mountains were born, the earth and the world brought forth, from eternity to eternity You are God.**

*V. Glory be to the Father, and to the Son, and to the Holy Spirit,*

**R. As it was in the beginning, is now, and ever shall be, world without end. Amen.**

### ALLELUIA – Revelation 22:16

I, Jesus, sent My angel to give you this testimony for the churches. I am the root and offspring of David, the bright morning star.

### THE GOSPEL – Matthew 1:18-24

This is how the birth of Jesus Christ came about. When his mother Mary was betrothed to Joseph, but before they lived together, she was found with child through the Holy Spirit. Joseph her husband, since he was a righteous man, yet unwilling to expose her to shame, decided to divorce her quietly. Such was his intention when, behold, the angel of the Lord appeared to him in a dream and said, "Joseph, son of David, do not be afraid to take Mary your wife into your home. For it is through the Holy Spirit that this child has been conceived in her. She will bear a son and you are to name him Jesus, because he will save his people from their sins." All this took place to fulfill what the Lord had said through the prophet: Behold, the virgin shall conceive and bear a son, and they shall name him Emmanuel, which means "God is with us." When Joseph awoke, he did as the angel of the Lord had commanded him and took his wife into his home.

**This is the Gospel of the Lord!**

# Worship Services

**TODAY–Dec. 18<sup>th</sup>**

**The Fourth Sunday of Advent**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**SATURDAY Dec. 24<sup>th</sup>**

**Christmas Eve**

**Pasterka**

**“Shepherd’s Mass”**

**MIDNIGHT – HOLY MASS**

*The Saint Stephen’s Choir will present a program of Christmas Carols at 11:45 PM.*

*Please encourage all you know, family, friends and neighbors to join us as we celebrate the birth of Christ Our Lord.*

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**SUNDAY Dec. 25<sup>th</sup>**

**Solemnity**

**Nativity of the Lord**

**9:00 AM – HOLY MASS**

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**MONDAY Dec. 26<sup>th</sup>**

**Feast of Saint Stephen**

**Proto - Martyr**

**7:00 PM – HOLY MASS**

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**TUESDAY Dec. 27<sup>th</sup>**

**Feast of Saint John**

**Apostle and Evangelist**

**Blessing and**

**Distribution of Wine**

**7:00 PM – HOLY MASS**

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**SUNDAY– January 1<sup>st</sup>**

**SOLEMNITY**

**Circumcision of Our Lord**

**8:00 AM – Holy Mass**

**9:30 AM – Holy Mass**

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**THURSDAY– Jan. 6<sup>th</sup>**

**SOLEMNITY**

**Epiphany of Our Lord**

**7:00 PM – Holy Mass**

# INTENTIONS

## My Brothers and Sisters:

Our prayers are needed: For the increase in men called to the priesthood and diaconate of the Polish National Catholic Church; For the health and growth of our Parish; For all of the sick and homebound members of our Parish, our families and friends, especially Sharon Fitzwater, Jeannine Dresh, Amanda Dresh, Brianne Dresh, Bonnie Sue Pilot, Lisha Rowe, Lorah Zawoski, Isabella Mularczyk, Edward Czechowski, Patrice Czechowski, Donna Schalata, Tom Schalata, Bill and Bernice Biroscak, Geri Piotrowski, Janet Katinowsky, Julia Urban, Sandy Pfennig, Courtney Pierce, Janice Elaine Casperson, Elizabeth McAlanis, Skye Sadowski, Barbara Waszk,,Terry Leatherman, Jackie Weinholt, Andy Kosak, Riley Rejniak, Jane and John Aldershoff, Cindy Golowski, Pat Schiaroli, Diane Fisher, and Father Senior Ed Ratajack. **Our Father...**

**If there are any other individuals who should or shouldn’t be on this list, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them or remove them!**

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## UPCOMING EVENTS

**Today, December 18<sup>th</sup>**; Regular monthly meeting of the Parish Committee in the Fellowship Hall at 11:00 AM

**Today, December 18<sup>th</sup>**; Parish Christmas Party 12:00 Noon until 3:00 PM. Invite your family and friends, all are welcome. Food, Music and general good times for all!

**Thursday, January 5<sup>th</sup>**; The Book Club will meet in the Library at 7:00 PM.

**If there are any other events not listed here, please email or tell Father Senior Donald so he can add them!**

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## THE KNIGHTS CLOSET

The Reading School District has informed us that the Knights Closet Project which provides items of basic necessity to students in need will continue this year. The parish has generously participated in this worthwhile cause in past years and I hope that we will find it in our hearts to continue to do so. Please leave your contributions on the table in the Hall near the windows and we will get them to those in need.

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## OPLATKI

The Oplatki Wafers are here! They are available on the table in the vestibule. Please take a package or two for a small donation and share the joy, blessings and happiness of Christmas with your friends and families at your Christmas dinners.

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## 2023 PNCC HOME LITURGICAL CALENDER

The 2023 PNCC HOME LITURGICAL CALENDAR is now available in limited quantities. They can be found on the table in the vestibule and cost \$6.50 each. They are a great way to keep up with Holy Days and other liturgical celebrations during the year.

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## Donation Envelopes 2023

The Donation Envelopes for 2023 are available on the table in the Library. Please remember to pick up yours so that you are ready to faithfully support our beloved Saint Stephen the Martyr Parish in the coming year.

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## Mobility Scooter and Wheelchair

Sally Traczuk has a Mobility Scooter and an Electric Wheelchair available. Please contact Sally after the 9:30 Mass for more information.

